

Specification amendments

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 10 of page 1 to read as follows:

Mini blinds of all varieties are in common usage today as window coverings. As is well known, a mini blind consists of a rigid spine ~~spline~~ from which a plurality of horizontally disposed slats is supported for limited rotational movement to provide a desired shade effect. It should be noted that the term “mini blind” as used herein is intended to encompass all types of Venetian blinds which include a plurality of parallel light blocking slats that are movable in unison. The slats of the mini blind may also be conventionally raised or lowered in a progressive manner. For example, the slats may be fully raised for ease of installation and removal of the mini blind.

Please amend the section of page 4, line 1 through line 11 to read as follows:

a pair of V-shaped keyholes 21,23, 31,33 and 41,43, respectively, in which suction cups 50 are secured. Each of the ~~supports also includes a~~ bottom portions 24, 34 and 44, ~~respectively, that~~ extends at right angles from its respective back portion. The right and left end supports 20 and 30 also include side portions 28 24 and 38, 34, respectively, and front portions 26 and 36, respectively, that define

open sided enclosures for loosely captivating the ends of the spine of mini blind 10, with the front and side portions restricting longitudinal and transverse longitudinal movement of the spine. The suction cups 50 are conventional and include lifting tabs 52 for readily releasing them from the wall or surface by breaking the suction seal that secures them. As is best seen in the partially broken away front wall 26 of right end support 20 of FIG 2 and in FIG 8, indicia 25, 35 and 45 are molded into the back supports for assisting in aligning the supports on a tiled wall having horizontally disposed grout lines. The supports are preferably molded of plastic material.

Please amend the paragraph beginning with line 12 of page 4 as follows:

FIG 10 shows a portion of a shower stall or bath wall 60 having smooth surface tiles 62 that are arranged in a pattern defined by horizontally disposed grout lines 64 and vertically disposed grout lines 66. Right end support 20, left end support 30 and intermediate support 40 are positioned with their respective suction cups on associated ones of tiles 62 with the back supports being vertically aligned with the vertical grout lines 66 and horizontally aligned by means of indicia 25, 35 and 45, respectively, with the horizontal grout lines 64. The spacing between the

end supports 20 and 30 is determined by the length of the spine ~~12 spline~~ ~~10~~ of the mini blind, and the intermediate support is positioned to coincide with the middle of the spine ~~spline~~. When so positioned, the mini blind may be readily and securely hung by the supports 20, 30 and 40 and manipulated as necessary for thorough cleaning. Thorough cleaning with soap and water or other suitable liquid cleaner may thus be carried out in the shower/bath environment. It will of course be appreciated that cleaning of the mini blind may also be performed by using the support system on any smooth surface, for example an outdoor patio door or large window.

Please amend the Abstract to read as follows:

A support system for cleaning mini blinds includes a pair of end supports and an intermediate support, each support having a back portion and a lower portion extending at right angles for supporting the spine ~~spline~~ of the mini blind. A pair of suction cups is affixed to each back portion for securing the back portion to a smooth surface. An alignment indicia is provided on the back portions for aiding in horizontal alignment of the supports. The two end supports each include a side portion and a front portion for restricting movement of the spine ~~spline~~ of the supported mini blind.